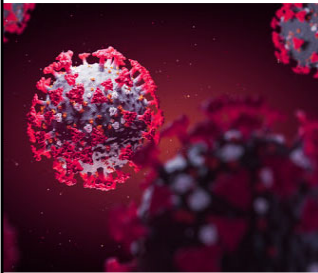


# RECTOR'S REPORT TO THE CONVOCATION REKTOR SE VERSLAG AAN DIE KONVOKASIE 2020

Staying on course in the time of COVID-19  
Om op koers te bly tydens die koronaviruspandemie



A THRIVING  
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY



A TRANSFORMATIVE STUDENT  
EXPERIENCE



PURPOSEFUL PARTNERSHIPS AND INCLUSIVE  
NETWORKS



GENETWERKTE EN SAMEWERKENDE ONDERRIG  
EN LEER



NAVORSING VIR IMPAK



VOORKEURWERKGEWEW



Prof Wim de Villiers  
Rektor en Visekanselier / Rector and Vice-Chancellor

2020-12-09



© The content of this presentation is confidential.

- Thank you. Good evening, everyone. Goeienaand. Molweni. Ek dink dis baie goed dat ons in hierdie buitengewone jaar kan vergader, selfs al is dit nie van aangesig-tot-aangesig nie, maar in die kuberruim.
- So, thanks for this opportunity. It's always a pleasure to interact with our stakeholders. Die Konvokasie is vir ons belangrik, synde 'n liggaam wat ingevolge die US Statuut die doel het om die welsyn van die Universiteit te bevorder.
- So, hoe gaan dit met ons Universteit? That's what I will be covering in my overview of 2020 ... how we have been staying on course in the time of COVID-19
- The icons you see in the middle of this slide depict the six core strategic themes of the University. You will see them used again on slides as I go through my presentation, because, as the philosopher Alfred North Whitehead said: "The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order."
- That's what we tried to do this year >>

# The impact of COVID-19 on SU

## Die impak van COVID-19 op die US



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### Overriding priorities for 2020:

1. Completing the **academic year**
2. Ensuring institutional **sustainability**

### Oorhoofse prioriteite vir 2020:

1. Voltooiing van die **akademiese jaar**
2. Institusionele **volhoubaarheid**



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- 2020 will rightly be remembered as especially challenging.
- When the coronavirus pandemic struck, all our priorities were immediately reduced to (1) Completing the academic year 2020; and (2) Ensuring the University's sustainability into the future
- I am happy to say I think we managed well – thanks to the hard work and sacrifices of colleagues and students. Ons is ook baie dankbaar vir die ondersteuning wat ons van alumni en ander skenkers ontvang het
- Ek deel graag ons vordering vanjaar met die Konvokasie

## Cometh the hour, cometh the Matie Maties doen hul deel in stryd teen koronavirus



Stellenbosch University's (SU's)  
Research and Innovation Response to the  
COVID-19 Pandemic



Researchers lead multi-university study to track economic impacts of COVID-19



- I am so very proud of how the whole University community rallied in response to the coronavirus pandemic!
- From hundreds of TygerMaties volunteering to serve on the frontline ...
- ... to many multi-disciplinary coronavirus-related research projects and activities unfolding across all our faculties

## Institutional Committee for Business Continuity Institusionele Komitee vir Bedryfsvoortsetting



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### ICBC Chair: *Prof Stan du Plessis*, Chief Operating Officer

- Workstream 1: Student services (*Dr Ronel Retief*)
- Workstream 2: Learning and teaching (*Prof Arnold Schoonwinkel*)
- Workstream 3: Staff (human resources, health and wellbeing) (*Prof Nico Koopman*)
- Workstream 4: Communications, social impact, external relations (*Prof Hester Klopper*)
- Workstream 5: Campus operations (*Ms Nicolette van den Eijkel*)
- Workstream 6: Finance and legal (*Mr Manie Lombard*)
- Workstream 7: Research (*Prof Eugene Cloete*)
- Medical Advisory Committee (*Prof Eugene Cloete*)



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- Something that greatly helped us was that we set up an Institutional Committee for Business Continuity (ICBC). This enabled us to handle the crisis with coordination, in an integrated fashion.
- I have been greatly impressed by the nimbleness of our staff – both in academic roles and those in professional administrative support services – who have been walking extra mile after extra mile to keep our academic project on track.
- >>

## Emergency remote teaching, learning and assessment Noodafstandsonderrig, -leer en -assessering



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EXPERIENCE



NETWORKED AND COLLABORATIVE TEACHING  
AND LEARNING



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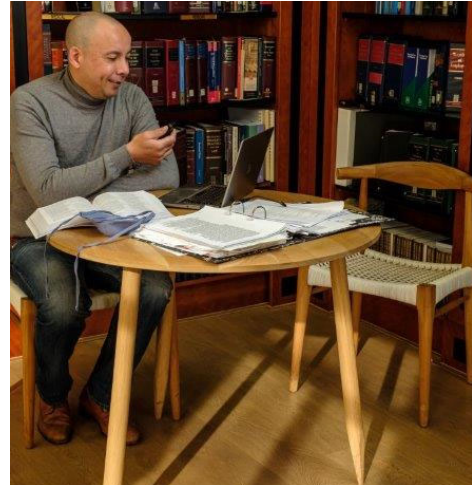
- Seker die heel belangrikste verwickeling aan die Universiteit vanjaar was ons snelle oorskakeling na noodafstandsonderrig, -leer en -assessering.
- When contact tuition was suspended on campuses nationwide in March, we had to switch to emergency remote teaching, learning and assessment very rapidly – and we managed.
- Dit was een groot spanpoging. Elkeen het sy deel gedoen – van dosente wat hul kursusse moes hersaamstel en studente wat skielik aanlyn moes klasdraf en eksamen skryf, tot tegnisi wat oorlaaide stelsels in rekordtyd moes opgradeer en bestuurders wat 'n manier moes kry om dinge aan die gang te hou, kom wat wil.

## L&T @ SU during COVID-19: SUCCESSES



NETWORKED AND COLLABORATIVE TEACHING  
AND LEARNING

1. L&T Workstream involving vice-deans (L&T) and students, feed into ICBC for decisions
2. Agile adjustment to ERTLA during April break extended by two weeks
3. Pay-off of five-year Council investment in ICT for L&T
4. Extensive webinars (well attended) & websites to train academics, tutors and students for ERTLA
5. Cross-functional support group for technology & other support, chaired by SD:LTE
- 6. Close cooperation between academic and support staff: The SU “can do” attitude**
7. Regular communication with students and staff about ERTLA measures
8. Lecturers going the extra extra mile for students!

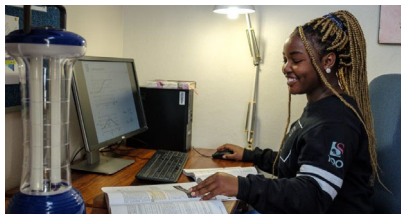


- Hier sien ons ‘n paar van die dinge wat goed gewerk het, en die redes daarvoor.
- I highlight especially the close cooperation between stakeholders, in a “can do” spirit.
- Dis mos hoe ons Maties ken – hulle maak ‘n plan, kom wat wil!

## L&T @ SU during COVID-19

### CHALLENGE

1. Students have difficulties adjusting to ERTLA and operating own home technologies and software
2. Physical distancing regulation of >1.5m implies only the most essential practical work and classes could occur face-to-face
3. Connectivity and load shedding



### MITIGATION

1. Websites with advice and IT help line; additional assessment opportunities; students invited back to campuses
2. Prioritised crucial clinical and practical work and required outcomes; allowed more students back as COVID-19 alert levels went down
3. Shipped laptops; data bundles; working asynchronously as much as possible



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EXPERIENCE



- Hier sien ons van die vernaamste uitdagings vir Leer en Onderrig tydens die pandemie, en wat ons daaraan gedoen het
- On the whole, the University has been quite successful with the rapid switch to online learning and teaching, for which we are very grateful
- But we also know that some students have been having very hard time because they lack resources or find themselves in difficult circumstances.
- And even though we tried our best with laptops and data and so forth, some students still struggled.
- We have to acknowledge this and keep on improving, especially as we start incorporating more and more hybrid and blended methods in our learning and teaching, WHICH IS THE FUTURE.

## Student success rates in SU's taught programmes



NETWORKED AND COLLABORATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Three-year undergraduate degrees

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Throughput rates minimum + 2 years	71,5%	68,6%	76,7%	72,4%	71,8%	72,5%

### Four-year undergraduate degrees

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Throughput rates* minimum + 2 years	77,0%	73,5%	76,2%	75,0%	74,0%	75,4%

### Honours degrees

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Throughput rates minimum + 2 years	87,3%	87,8%	86,0%	87,0%	88,4%	88,7%

### Module success rates (undergraduate)

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Success rates**	86,0%	86,9%	86,6%	87,2%	86,7%	87,2%

\* Degree throughput rates: Reflecting cohorts up to and including those who graduated in 2019 within the minimum duration plus two years. The four-year throughput rates exclude Extended Degree Programme (EDP) students. \*\* Module success rates: Only undergraduate figures are reported here. The percentage comprises the number of module credits earned by students who passed the module, divided by the total number of credits they had enrolled for.



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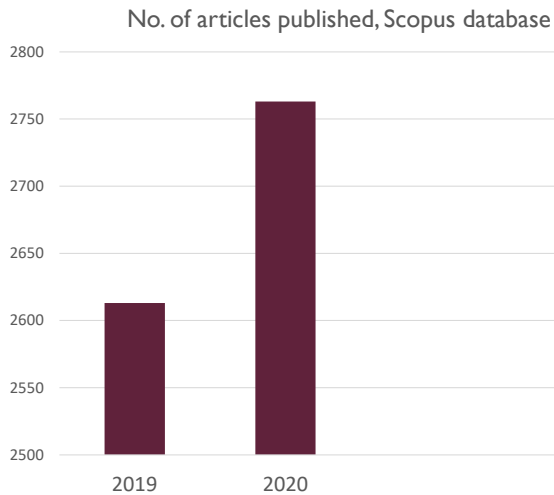
- Ons kan almal baie trots wees hierop – studentesukses ... ons Universiteit handhaaf 'n uitstekende rekord
- In fact, according to throughput tables published by the Department of Higher Education and Training, Stellenbosch is the TOP UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH AFRICA in terms of student success.
- En dis nie al nie – kyk, die jongste kohortsyfers bly styg!
  - Our graduation throughput rate for three-year undergraduate degrees is now 72,5%
  - For four-year undergraduate degrees it is 75,4%
  - And for honours degrees 88,7%.
- And our overall undergraduate module success rate (i.e. students passing their modules) is at a very high 87,2%



## SU research output US-navorsingsuitset



RESEARCH FOR IMPACT



Quintin the robot connects isolated Covid-19 patients with families



Innovative Covid-19 treatment saves lives and healthcare resources



- Ons het ook baie goed gevaar in navorsing en innovasie vanjaar
- According to data extracted from the Scopus database, our research productivity as measured in number of articles published is up this year.
- That's in scholarly journals, but also in popular media, the work of our staff in combating the pandemic and mitigating its effects made headlines.
- On screen, you see two of such stories, including my favourite, top right, about Quintin the robot deployed in the COVID-19 ICU ward at Tygerberg Hospital ... where he was promptly dubbed "Quintin Quarantino" ...

## Social impact during COVID-19 Sosiale impak tydens die koronaviruspandemie



PURPOSEFUL PARTNERSHIPS AND INCLUSIVE NETWORKS



- Soos dikwels gebeur, bring 'n krisis die beste in mense na vore
- Our Division of Social Impact (DSI) – led by Dr Leslie van Rooi – collaborated with various partners to support local initiatives.
- Our Campus Health Service assisted with telephonic screening, planning and protocols.
- And we co-established Stellenbosch Unite, a collaborative movement that distributed food to vulnerable households.
- Welgedaan aan ons kollegas, en baie dankie aan almal van u wat ook uitreik na ander mense wat swaarkry in hierdie moeilike tyd.
- >>

## SU in the rankings

See Introduction to Management Report (pp. 52 of Council bundle)



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SU among world's best  
for research excellence  
and innovation



Council request:

- What data do we provide to QS and how do we provide it?
- To what other rankings do we provide data?
- What is SU's viewpoint about ranking participation in general?
- What is SU's future focus on rankings?
- How do we communicate our positions/performance on the different rankings?
- How are rankings supported by SU's marketing strategy/marketing drive?



Report to Council on  
SU Participation in Rankings



Prof Hester C. Klopper

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Strategy &  
Internationalisation



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- It is a pleasure to report that notwithstanding all the challenges we have had to face this year, SU has further cemented its place internationally.
- Over the past few months, SU was repeatedly listed among the world's top universities.
  - On the Shanghai rankings
  - The Times Higher Education World University Rankings; and
  - The US News & World Report rankings
- While our focus is on academic and research excellence, we appreciate the importance of rankings in the overall perception of an institution's standing. It amounts to a **VOTE OF CONFIDENCE**, and we got three of them this year.
- At the same time, I know it is a complicated and often controversial matter.
- The issue was discussed at Council and explored in depth in a feedback report, which is being discussed on campus

## Financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic on SU Finansiële impak van COVID-19 op die US



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### Reserved/received:

- Council authorised to be held in reserve: R 105 000 000
- Received from the state: R 22 600 000

### Major expenses/losses:

- Purchase of 1 800 laptops for students: R 13 700 000
- Data bundles for students, Apr–Dec: R 14 400 000
- Payment arrangements and relief : R 900 000
- No-stay-no-pay in res (lost income): R 205 800 000
- State subsidy cut: R 20 500 000



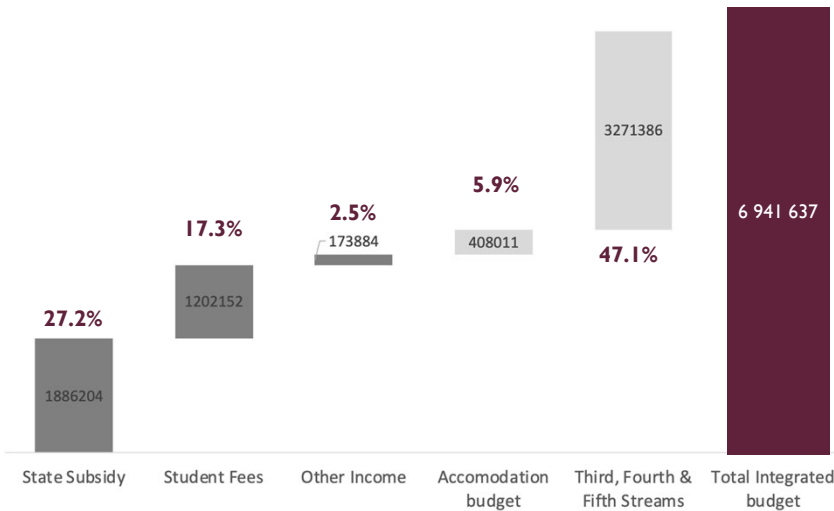
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- Hoewel ons baie goed gedoen het op talle gebiede, het die pandemie en inperking tog wel 'n finansiële impak op die US gehad.
- Here are just some of the ways we were affected.
  - Council put aside a substantial contingency reserve
  - The state gave us R22 million ... but then took away R20 million
  - And we had major expenses, as you can see from the few items listed on screen. I referred to laptops and data earlier – here you see what it cost us
- Let wel, dis net van ons uitgawes.
- So hoe lyk die groter prentjie?

## Composition of the integrated budget: income



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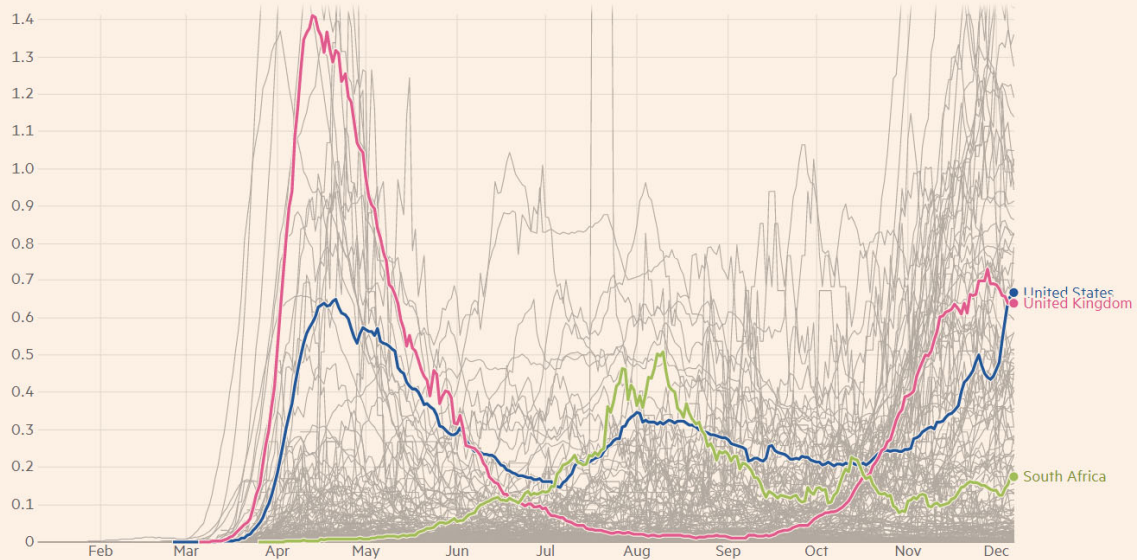


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- Hier sien ons die samestelling van ons geïntegreerde begroting, as 'n maatstaf van ons volhoubaarheid
- We are fortunate that our finances are in a health state. The University is a R7 BILLION organisation
- But that is not the most important bit of information on this slide. Look at the second-last column on the right – that's the income we generate ourselves, through contract research, philanthropic donations and commercial income from facilities and services.
- It's almost half of our total income, which is a good position to be in – and very few, if any, other universities in SA can say that. **Another vote of confidence.**
- Reg, wat lê vir ons voor volgende jaar?
- To know what's in stall for us next year, we need to look at where we stand in terms of the pandemic

### New deaths attributed to Covid-19 in United States, United Kingdom and South Africa

Seven-day rolling average of new deaths (per 100k)















Source: Financial Times analysis of data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the Covid Tracking Project, the UK Government coronavirus dashboard, the Spanish Ministry of Health and the Swedish Public Health Agency. Data updated December 8 2020 1.37pm GMT. Interactive version: [ft.com/covid19](https://www.ft.com/covid19)

FINANCIAL TIMES

- Here we see a graph of NEW DEATHS attributed to COVID-19 in, respectively, the US (blue), UK (red) and SA (green) ... updated yesterday ... a seven-day rolling average per hundred thousand of the population
- We see sharp rises again ... look at the tip South Africa's green line on the screen. So, we have to be very careful.
- But is there a way out of the predicament in which the world finds itself?
- >>

## How some of the Covid-19 vaccines compare

Company	Type	Doses	How effective*	Storage
 <b>Oxford Uni-AstraZeneca</b>	Viral vector (genetically modified virus)	 x2	62-90%	 Regular fridge temperature
 <b>Moderna</b>	RNA (part of virus genetic code)	 x2	95%	 -20C up to 6 months
 <b>Pfizer-BioNTech</b>	RNA	 x2	95%	 -70C
 <b>Gamaleya (Sputnik V)</b>	Viral vector	 x2	92%	 Regular fridge temperature

\*preliminary phase three results, not yet peer-reviewed

Source: Respective companies, WHO



Two full doses of the Oxford vaccine gave 62% protection, a half dose followed by a full dose was 90% and overall the trial showed 70% protection.



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- Globally, hopes are being pinned on vaccines
- Hundreds in development
- Promising news lately. Here's how the frontrunners are stacking up ... [ON SCREEN]
- For us, the question is not when will vaccines be rolled out, but when we in SA will get sufficient access to it ...
- Hopefully at some point next year ... sooner rather than later >>

## 2021 SCENARIOS



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'Early' (return to near full campus activity)	'2020 B' (status quo continues)
<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>	
Programme disruption at least until Feb 2021; Nearly all students return at start of 2021 academic year	Programme disruption at least until Jul 2021; Not all students return to campus for first half of 2021
<b>TEACHING AND LEARNING IMPACT</b>	
Hybrid learning from March (substantial face-to-face); Assessments face-to-face (F2F)	ERTLA from March to end of H1 (first semester); Assessments online
<b>ENROLMENT, RETENTION, STUDENT OUTCOMES</b>	
Retention and progression improves; Enrolment & financial aid adversely affected	Retention problems and progression risk; Enrolment & financial aid adversely affected
<b>RESEARCH</b>	
Risk of PG student pipeline contracting; Research possibly slows as contracts decline	Risk of PG student pipeline contracting; Research possibly slows as contracts decline
<b>FACULTY &amp; STAFF</b>	
Return to campus; Health and wellbeing improves	Work from home continues; Strain because ERTLA continues and is augmented



- We been considering two scenarios for 2021.
- On the left, an EARLY return to near full campus activity, with almost all students returning at the start of the 2021 academic year on 15 March
- On the right, the current status quo continues, with not all students returning to campus for the first half of 2021.
- We see the implications unpacked in terms of the impact of each scenario in various dimensions
- We are going with the scenario on the left – an EARLY return to near full campus activity – depending on circumstances.
- We'll see ...



## WORK FROM HOME



## RETURN TO CAMPUS

### PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES



- Currently, most staff members continue working from home.
- We plan to resume most on-campus activities to the fullest extent possible next year, COVID-19 permitting.
- The University will reopen on 4 January 2021, and plans are being put in place for staff members to return to the office at appropriate stages next year.
- Wat studente betref, is ons doel is om weer met kontakonderrig te begin, aangevul met 'n mate van aanlyn leer, in pas met COVID-19-regulasies oor klasgroottes en fisiese distansiëring.
- Die verwelkomingsprogram vir nuwelingeerstejaars begin op 4 Maart met die studente se aankoms op kampus en by koshuise, en alle voorgraadse klasse begin op 15 Maart. (Nagraadse studente en sekere akademiese programme het vroeër aanvangsdatums.)



- Die pandemie duur voort. It ain't over 'til its over!
- That is why we have been – and will be – appealing to students and staff and campus visitors to stick to preventive measures. We have been conducting campaigns to drive home this message
- What else has been happening on our campuses?

## Campus renewal / Kampusvernuwing



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Ou Hoofgebou



Jan Mouton Learning Centre



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- Our campuses are being modernised and improved in a big way. Cudos to Facilities Management.
- Exciting developments – 138 projects underway. Let me just highlight two, something old, something new:
- Links, Die Ou Hoofgebou. We unveiled an art installation last month to celebrate the Constitution of South Africa. It forms part of our drive to make Stellenbosch University a more inclusive institution.
- Regs, die hipermoderne **Jan Mouton Leersentrum** langs die Neelsie word volgende jaar in gebruik geneem. Sal vir alle fakulteite beskikbaar wees. Fantastic facility, shown around there last week.
  - Twee meerdoelige lesingsale met 260 sitplekke, twee elektroniese klaskamers met 135 werkstasies, en twee konferensieouditoriums met 350 sitplekke elk.
  - Ideal for expanding hybrid learning, which we will be doing

## December graduation ceremonies Gradeplegtighede in Desember

- 14–16 Dec 2020
- Hybrid model to comply with COVID-19 regulations:
  - 12 small **physical** ceremonies (four per day) in the Endler Hall
    - Doctorates (including Mar/Apr 2020)
  - Faculty-specific **online** ceremonies
    - Graduands to receive qualifications in absentia
- **5 701** qualifications to be awarded
- **3 409** undergraduate degrees, diplomas, certificates (new record)
- 1 005 honeursgrade
- 502 meestersgrade
- 138 PhDs



- Looking ahead to next week -- we will be celebrating the academic achievements of thousands of students who will be graduating, which will no doubt lift our spirits!
- Hot off the presses – the final figures are in, and I am happy to report that the Class of 2020 is making history, in more ways than one.
- CLICK AGAIN:
  - No fewer than 5,700 students will be receiving a sought-after Stellenbosch University qualification next week – which is simply remarkable, given the difficulties of this year.
  - We will be awarding more than 3,400 undergraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates – the most ever!
  - En julle sien die ander syfers op die skerm – trots op ons bydrae tot ontwikkeling in ons land, ons vasteland en die res van die wêreld
- >>

# Preparing our students for the future Ons berei ons studente op die toekoms voor



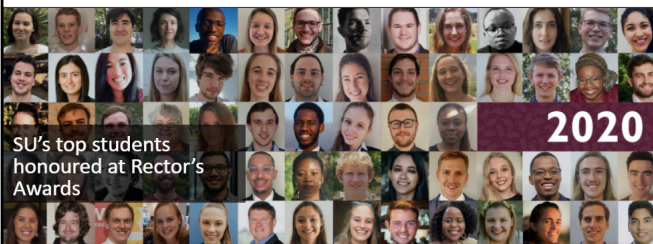
A TRANSFORMATIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



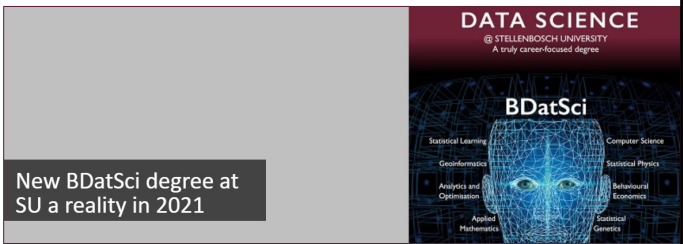
SU partners with the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation to drive student success



SU IdeaSmash Winner for 2020 announced



SU's top students honoured at Rector's Awards

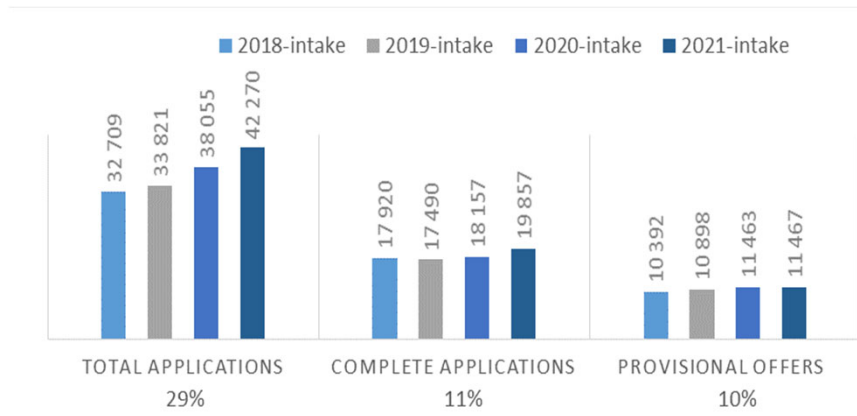


New BDatSci degree at SU a reality in 2021



- We aim to provide our students with transformative experience, preparing them to enter the future with confidence.  
A few highlights:
- [TOP LEFT] The **Michael and Susan Dell Foundation** pledged R191 million over five years for wrap-around support to 1,000 undergraduate students from low-income backgrounds.
- [BOTTOM LEFT] 76 of our **top students** across various categories received excellence this year – for academics, leadership, social impact, culture and service provision.
- [TOP RIGHT] The post-COVID-19 world will require significant innovation and entrepreneurship to adjust to our new normal. Preparing Maties to be part of the solution, Innovus and the LaunchLab regularly host events aimed at stirring the entrepreneurial spirit in our students.
- [BOTTOM RIGHT] We recently got approval from SAQA (the SA Qualifications Authority) to offer a four-year **Bachelor's degree in Data Science** from next year – a multi-disciplinary programme based on inter-faculty collaboration – between Economic and Management Sciences, AgriSciences, Arts and Social Sciences, and Science. It's the only course of its kind in the country.

## Newcomer first-year applications and provisional offers Eerstejaarsaansoeke en voorwaardelike aanbiedinge



Growth from 2018 to 2021 intake

- Dit is hoekom die US 'n gesogte bestemming vir student is
- Since the opening of **applications** for undergraduate studies in March, we closely monitored trends to determine whether the coronavirus pandemic would have a negative impact on our numbers.
- But it was quite the opposite. As you can see here, we have been able to maintain our growth in applications over the last four years. That is the biggest VOTE OF CONFIDENCE any university can ask for.
- Ons is baie dankbaar. Dis ons plig en verantwoordelikheid om daardie vertrouwe gestand te doen – ter wille van die toekoms.



- Ek sluit af. Dit was 'n moeilike jaar, maar ons het goeie vordering gemaak.
- Trots om deel te wees van SPAN US / TEAM STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY.
- A sincere thank you to the Convocation – including all our alumni – for taking and enduring interest and showing loyalty to our University.
- Your constructive engagement is an asset to our institution that we can optimise to promote the welfare of our institution
- Baie dankie. Enkosi kakhulu.